

THE CHANGING ASPECT OF OUR TOWN

Gradually but surely our town is changing. It is noticeable in various little things and quite apparent in various bigger things.

On Nassaustraat several shops have renovated their facades, ranging from a mere paintjob to a complete face-lifting La Moderna, La Linda and last but not least Aruba Trading Co. are showing the way in this respect.

These concerns realize that for the touristtrade the shops should look as attractive as possible. Gay and bright colors were chosen for these premises and in our opinion the choice was a wise one. Our town should be bright and colorful and promote a sense of gaiety and cheerfulness. Nothing depresses more than drab looking buildings, sagging doors and windows, and run down ill kept houses in the main shopping street of a town.

Not only on Nassaustraat do we see changes.

Recently E. & G. Martijn opened their new offices on Havenstraat. A building of modern and utilitarian design that — with its large windows creating an atmosphere of spaciousness and openness — blends agreeably into the surroundings.

A little bit more to the centre of town we see the new building of Banco Comercial Antiliano N.V. taking shape. From a view that we had of the drawings of this building we know that it is going to be a modern looking one, but with the unmistakable tropical atmosphere, created by the use of so-called "screen-walls". These are walls that in fact form no part of the structural part of the building. One could compare them with screendoors, used to keep out the mosquitos

but than made of cement blocks with an open design and used to keep out the direct sunrays.

With the recent changes that the square at the end of Wilhelminastraat and the beginning of Havenstraat underwent, e.g. the improvement of the pavement, the fixing of the traffic-lanes and the planting of the available spots on sidewalks and islands between traffic-lanes with plants and flamboyant-trees, this place, the heart of town, is going to be a very attractive spot.

Like the little shop of "Playalux" on Nassaustraat and the new travel-bureau on Wilhelminastraat operating under the style of "ALDO Travel Bureau", Banco Comercial Antiliano is also going to use some native stones for the embellishment of the building.

So we see, that slowly but surely our town is changing.

It is reassuring to see that the architects are striving toward modern architecture with an own and distinctive nature suitable to our land with its abundance of sunlight and cooling trade-winds. Do not misunderstand us. We do wish to hold on to and preserve any old buildings that due to their beauty or historical importance are worth to be conserved. However, our town is full of buildings that have definitely no historical background and cannot possibly be considered to be representative of any old tropical or colonial architecture. Replacing those buildings by modern ones in an attractive new style (not just a set of walls of poured concrete with a zinc roof) will gradually give a new and distinctive aspect to our town.

LA SITUACIONDE LOS REFUGIADOS

A fin de poder desembarcarse en las Antillas Neerlandesas es necesario tener en su posesión un permiso de desembarque. Creemos que con este simple y barato requisito, las Antillas Neerlandesas son las que dan menos dificultades en conceder entrada en este país. Sin embargo, parece que ciudadanos cubanos encuentran dificultades en obtener esta forma y llegaron sin este permiso.

Recientemente, nuestro Ministro de Justicia tomó una resolución decidida, dando órdenes de que cada cubano sin este permiso no puede entrar y tiene que ser enviado de vuelta inmediatamente. Sin duda, una acción justificante.

Pero..... eso no obstante, no estamos de acuerdo. No estamos de acuerdo considerando las circunstancias extraordinarias. Nuestra opinión es que tendrán que dejar entrar a cada cubano pendiente de su destinación ulterior.

En primer lugar hay que darles ayuda y amparo y todos los otros problemas se pueden aclarar después.

Lo que a niños, hasta 18 años, nuestra actitud es más enfática: Ni siquiera kueremos entender nuestra mismas dificultades que surgirán al admitir estos niños. Queremos que sean admitidos sin permiso alguno. Lo debemos a ellos, a nuestros niños y a nosotros mismos.